

26 September 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Czechoslovak Crisis: FBIS coverage of the Czechoslovak crisis continued heavy during the month. The importance of FBIS reporting was pointed up in a telegram from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and a letter from Mr. George Ball, then head of the U.S. Mission.

According to the telegram, shortly after the Soviet invasion the U.S. U.N. Mission started supplying the Czech U.N. Mission with FBIS Wire Service reports on the crisis. The U.S. Mission said the FBIS reports proved very helpful to the Czechoslovak Mission and had been "one of the bases the Czechoslovak Mission used in determining positions to be taken at the United Nations." FBIS reports on Czechoslovak broadcasts "usually reached the Czechoslovak Mission long before instructions from the Foreign Ministry in Prague" and were "utilized by both Foreign Minister Hajek and Acting Permanent Representative Muzik in determining the position the mission would take on many questions." According to a member of the Czechoslovak mission, during the period before the release of the Moscow communique, instructions sent to the Czech Mission from Prague had been very curt and were signed "Svoboda", even though the Czechoslovak President at that time was in Moscow. These two facts led the Czechoslovak mission to distrust the instructions from Prague and to "rely on FBIS for information" in order to act on the mission's own judgment of the situation.

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The letter from the then head of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Mr. George Ball, (a copy of which is attached) explains how "extremely important" FBIS material was to the U.S. Mission during the meetings of the Security Council on the Czechoslovak crisis. "In a number of instances in the Security Council, Mr. Ball notes, "I used your material directly from the ticker within minutes after its receipt. Largely because of this information, we were consistently better informed than any other delegation in the United Nations."

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S E C R E T

Group I
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

Coordinated coverage of Czechoslovak-language transmitters and press continued between the London and Austrian Bureaus who kept abreast of rapidly changing developments despite varying degrees of radio reception and staffs that were thinly spread. As the "free and legal" transmitters of Czechoslovakia became more organized, forming a network of stations operating for the most part in parallel on both medium and shortwave, reception at Caversham proved to be better than during normal summertime conditions. This centrally organized network of stations followed a regular pattern of reportage from remote studios which proved to be amazingly efficient considering that the country was under occupation by the Warsaw Pact forces. Operations by Prague external services continued in a somewhat less organized manner. [redacted]

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Radio Moscow, which began 24-hour Czech and Slovak broadcasting on 21 August, the first day of the occupation, continued until 2100 GMT on 12 September, at which time the Moscow transmitters reverted to their standard, precrisis services. [redacted]

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Radio Vltava, a clandestinely operated, pro-Soviet transmitter which remains on the air, and "The Voice of the Workers' Party," another of the same type, which has discontinued operations, added to the coverage load of the Austrian and London Bureaus. [redacted]

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Czech broadcasting and newspaper publication began slowly to return to normal shortly after the first of the month, greatly relieving the radio monitoring side of operations, but there followed consistent reports and rumors of an imminent invasion of Rumania by the Pact countries. This was again a matter for close coordination, including that by telephone, between the Austrian and London Bureaus. [redacted]

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Coverage of Czechoslovakia was returned to a "near-normal" basis on 20 September when the BBC editor-monitor assigned on one-month's TDY at the Austrian Bureau returned to London. [redacted]

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The London PMU and the BBC shared the translation of the 10,000 word draft of the Czechoslovak Communist Party statutes. As the Czech crisis developed late in the month, PMU absorbed translation of material from the Czech press which BBC could not handle because of radio monitoring commitments. [redacted]

50X1

- 2 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

In the first 4 weeks (20 publishing days) after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact armies, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Daily Reports published more than 1.1 million words of reportage and comment on the invasion and related developments. Of the nearly 2,000 pages of material published, the Eastern Europe report accounted for 1,240 and the Soviet Union for 735. [REDACTED]

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The Propaganda Analysis Division prepared 12 spot analyses for dissemination on the FBIS Wire pointing up developments related to the Czechoslovak situation, including differences in approach among Moscow's four hard-core allies, the Yugoslav and Rumanian positions, the Chinese Communist reaction, and Soviet treatment of issues in U.S.-Soviet relations in light of the intervention. A 32-page special section in the 29 August PAD Survey examined worldwide communist reactions to the intervention. [REDACTED]

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2. Saigon Attacks: During a rocket attack on Saigon on the morning of August 22, several rockets impacted in the vicinity of the Saigon Bureau, at least two within a two-block radius. There was no damage to Saigon Bureau personnel or property. [REDACTED]

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3. Cyprus Situation: Negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots were resumed the latter part of August, with little hope of immediate progress. In Nicosia and Famagusta bombs were set off in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia by rightwing Greek Cypriots. They were apparently directed against the Soviet Embassy and the Communist Party of Cyprus. [REDACTED]

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4. Paris Talks: Support of the weekly Paris meeting between U.S. and DRV negotiators continues as a significant FBIS effort, with Saigon, Okinawa, and Caribbean Bureaus and PAD being the components primarily concerned. [REDACTED]

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5. Inspector General's Survey: The Inspector General's report on the survey of FBIS was completed in August. The major conclusions of the survey team are as follows:

-FBIS turns out a useful, needed product, highly regarded by the consumers; it does this economically; the FBIS-FDD merger is bearing some of the expected fruit.

-FBIS people have in many ways been isolated from the rest of the Agency; this has an effect on both work and morale.

- 3 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

-Staff cuts over many years have hurt FBIS control and flexibility; the reliance on aliens is strong and perhaps now risky.

This report on the survey includes ten recommendations. None calls for structural reorganization or major redirection of effort. Because of the times, none suggests increasing expenditures or the number of staff positions.

SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

6. Press and Document Exploitation: The USSR Division's Physical Sciences Branch completed two lengthy Russian translations for an Organization component. One, an operations and maintenance manual on an armored personnel carrier amounted to 313 English pages; the other comprised 56 English pages on functions and characteristics of a radiation dosimeter. Also for an Organization component, the Division's Political/Military Branch has for the last six months translated an average of 100 pages a month from a Russian military publication regularly supplied by the component.

Asia Division translated a 6-page Chinese document entitled, "Chinese Communist Nuclear Weapons and Missile Manufacturing Capability," and produced a 12-page reverse translation from English into Chinese entitled, "Radio Operating Procedure." Both items were requested by Organization components. [redacted]

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7. Propaganda Analysis: A 48-page Special Memorandum tabulating Vietnamese communist propaganda claims of allied losses in South Vietnam in the Saigon and Third Corps area, covering the period from the start of the Tet offensive on 30-31 January through April, responded to interest expressed particularly by MACV Saigon. Background and analysis was supplied to the office of the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, and to the U.S. Vietnam Mission in Paris on a demand in DRV Premier Pham Van Dong's 2 September National Day speech that the United States "recognize the NFLSV and talk with the Front on problems of concern to the two sides of Vietnam." The office of the Director, INR called PAD to express appreciation for the analysis, which alerted the Department to the fact that this demand had not appeared in any Hanoi propaganda for more than two years. Other services included a compilation, for an Organization component, of North Vietnamese denials of the presence of DRV troops in Laos since February 1966. [redacted]

50X1

- 4 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

8. Lateral Services: At the request of Ambassador Belcher, reaction to events in Czechoslovakia from non-aligned Middle East countries was filed to the embassy in Nicosia by Mediterranean, Austrian, and London Bureaus. Ambassador Belcher found particularly useful a London Bureau item reporting President Tito's reaction to the Soviet invasion. [redacted]

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At the request of an Organization component, Far East bureaus were asked to wirefile temporarily all processed items on the Czech crisis to consumers in Taiwan and Seoul. Also at the request of an Organization component, Saigon Bureau was asked to wirefile HOC TAP table of contents summaries to the embassy in London for an Organization consumer. [redacted]

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The U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong was added to the Lateral Services List for significant references to Communist China from Hanoi sources.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia brought the Panama Bureau urgent requests for crisis reportage from two of the bureau's full-file consumers, the U.S. Army Analysis Unit and the G-2, U.S. Army Forces Southern Command. [redacted]

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9. Use of FBIS Material: State Department telegrams made extensive use of FBIS-monitored reportage on the Czech situation during the month. Over 100 broadcast items attributed to FBIS were cited in the Department's Czech Task Force situation reports from 21 August through 10 September. [redacted]

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FBIS materials on other areas were also mentioned in a significant number of State Department cables during August. A telegram listing the Department's planned responses to queries concerning the 13 August interview of the Pueblo crew noted that FBIS carried the text of the Pyongyang broadcast of the interview.

The U.S. Embassy in Saigon cited an FBIS-monitored Liberation Radio commentary calling for an uprising in Saigon as an indication that "The Viet Cong may not have given up all hope of generating significant urban popular response to a third offensive attack on the capital." Another Saigon Embassy telegram stated that a Hanoi radio report by DRV politburo member Truong Chinh, monitored by FBIS, contained an "authoritative reaffirmation of the role of violence in Vietnamese communist revolutionary strategy." Okinawa Bureau's VNA account of the DPRK National Day celebration in Hanoi provided the

- 5 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

first indication that Hoang Quoc Viet now holds the title of deputy premier, according to another embassy telegram. [redacted]

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A QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article on the U.S. presidential elections, monitored by FBIS, "makes plain that Hanoi does not want its people to believe that the United States might elect a president with acceptable views on a solution to the Vietnamese war," according to the Saigon Embassy. [redacted]

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A State Department telegram cited to the embassy in Paris an FBIS-monitored KYODO item that "a possible Viet Cong 'alliance' delegation was scheduled to arrive in Paris in a few days." [redacted]

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Saigon Embassy telegrams drew heavily on FBIS-monitored statements by the Liberation Front and "Peace Forces" Alliance, particularly for analyses of the latter's new political program and of the intensely watched activity of the Front in setting up "revolutionary administrations" and "liberation" committees. On the basis of material supplied by the Saigon Bureau, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was able to refute a false report by a Japanese correspondent that the Alliance and front were about to set up a joint government in South Vietnam. [redacted]

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Telegrams from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok cited three Bangkok Bureau items on Sihanouk's activities; one cable called the report of the national assembly resolution to confer full powers on Sihanouk "further indication of troubled conditions in Cambodia." [redacted]

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The text of a Radio Biafra broadcast calling for admission to the French Community was carried in full by a telegram from the Lagos embassy. Telegrams from Lagos and the Kaduna Consulate cited FBIS reports on the jamming of Radio Biafra on 20 and 21 August. [redacted]

10. Special Services: Tapes of the 13 August press conference by Pueblo crew members, broadcast by Pyongyang Radio and recorded by Okinawa Bureau, were airmailed to L&R and delivered to an Organization component on a priority basis.

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In response to a request received by the Key West Bureau from the State Department's Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Miami, the text of a Havana radio item concerning a note received by Radio Reloj Nacional's newsroom from the Czech Embassy was dictated to the Coordinator's secretary over the telephone while the item was being filed. [redacted]

- 6 -

50X1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

PUBLICATIONS

11. CPR Regional Newspapers: During the month, some 265 issues of Chicom provincial newspapers and 53 issues of Red Guard publications were received via the DLO, Hong Kong. In addition, 73 issues of Chicom newspapers were received from Mandalay. The third Foreign Press Digest incorporating data taken from the Chicom provincial press was published on 28 August. [redacted]

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12. White Book Survey: An evaluation of responses received from consumers of the FBIS White Book, resulting from the survey begun in early July 1968, has been prepared by L&R. Copies of the evaluation report are being furnished to each FBIS component. [redacted]

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13. Index of Le Monde: At the request of former consumers, publication of the monthly Index of Le Monde was resumed by the domestic contractual facility during the month. [redacted]

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14. Panorama of the Brazilian Economy: The Latin America Branch of EAD published through the contractual facility a 76-page report, entitled "Panorama of the Brazilian Economy," which gives details on the management, products, assets, and income of the 2,000 leading industries in Brazil. [redacted]

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15. Contractual Facility Support: When mail service to Vienna from Warsaw was interrupted for 5 days by the events in Czechoslovakia, EAD made special arrangements with the domestic contractual facility to speed the processing of current Polish press materials for Daily Report publication. Some 14,000 words were selected in Headquarters, sent out for translation, and returned in an average elapsed time of 48 hours. [redacted]

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FIELD OPERATIONS

16. Middle East Watch: Because many critical developments in the Near East occur during early morning hours, Mediterranean Bureau has assigned an Arabic monitor to duty starting at 0225 GMT daily. [redacted]

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- 7 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

17. Caribbean Bureau Coverage: The Caribbean Bureau added the Basque clandestine Radio Euzkadi to coverage during the unrest in the Basque provinces of Spain. Several European press reviews were also added to coverage. [redacted]

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18. Chinese Coverage: Peking's announcement of the establishment of province-level revolutionary committees in all the provinces "with the exception of Taiwan," has had little impact on broadcasting patterns. Most stations which had prior to the announcement relayed the Peking domestic service continue to do so with the exception of an occasional break, in which locally originated material is broadcast to announce rallies or other events in connection with the committees. The last two provinces to come under tighter control, Tibet and Sinkiang, are using their provincial radio stations for solid relay of Peking. [redacted]

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19. Guarani-Language Capability: After extended efforts by the Panama Bureau, the contractual facility, and Headquarters, a qualified Guarani monitor/translator has been cleared for use by the contractual facility. It is planned that recordings will be supplied by the field for sampling to determine content and value of broadcasts from communist countries into South America and especially Paraguay. [redacted]

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20. African Communications: African Bureau Communications via Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET) continues to -- at best -- deteriorate only slightly from month to month. Outages on the Lagos line totaled slightly more than 14 days during August, due for the most part to radio faults between Kaduna and Lagos. [redacted]

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ENGINEERING

21. DF System: Installation of the TRG Direction Finding System at the Caribbean Bureau was started during the month. [redacted]

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22. AUTODIN at Okinawa: The Mode V Autodin equipment installation at Okinawa Bureau was completed on 6 August. Inauguration of traffic via this system has been delayed pending the receipt of formal circuit validation by STRATCOMPAC. [redacted]

50X1

- 8 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

23. TMU, PME Readiness: The Transportable Monitoring Unit (TMU) located at the Caribbean Bureau and the Portable Monitoring Equipment (PME) kits located at the Mediterranean, Okinawa, Saigon bureaus and at Headquarters have been refurbished, modified as required, and are all now ready for emergency mission use. [redacted]

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24. Meo Monitoring: At the request of the U.S. Embassies in Bangkok and Vientiane, the Bangkok Bureau was authorized to attempt to recruit a Meo-language monitor. [redacted]

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MISCELLANEOUS

25. Visits and Briefings: FBIS personnel were briefed at the National Photographic Interpretation Center and the Defense Research Division of the Library of Congress. Visitors from DIA and various Organization components, as well as 60 members of an IOC course, were briefed on FBIS organization and activities during the month. [redacted]

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Col. Albrecht, J-2 MACTHAI staff, and Mr. Chaluy Bichaisoradat, Chief, Monitoring Service, News Division, Publications Relations Department, Royal Government of Thailand visited the Bangkok Bureau. Mr. John Eastman, new deputy chief of Torii Station, was briefed at Okinawa Bureau on FBIS and Okinawa Bureau operations. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

26. Staff Dependents Born Overseas: Employees are reminded, when returning to the United States from an overseas assignment, to apply for a Certificate of Citizenship and a Certificate of Birth for children born overseas. The Administrative Staff will advise of the required applications and the places where one must appear with the applications. [redacted]

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27. Home Leave Address: All returnees should advise Headquarters upon arrival in the Continental United States of a contact address and telephone number where they can be reached during home leave. [redacted]

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28. Pen and Ink Changes, [redacted]

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a. African Bureau, Page 1 - Please change the Shipping Address for Personal Air Freight to read: [redacted]

b. Caribbean Bureau, Page 2 - Under the Shipping Address column please add the following address for shipment of household effects and privately owned vehicles: FBIS (Individual's Name), [redacted]

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- 9 -

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

29. Training:

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- a. [] Chief, Operations Group, began a ten-month Residence Course at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in mid-August. 50X1
- b. [] Senior Editor formerly assigned to Bangkok Bureau, began a nine-month course of study at Harvard University under the National Institute of Public Affairs Career Education Awards Program. 50X1
- c. [] Operations Officer at Okinawa Bureau, completed the Midcareer Executive Development Course on 30 August. 50X1

30. Editorial Trainees: During the month, 5 more editor-trainees initiated or completed their preliminary training period and were assigned to Daily Report area branches. This group was the most recent contingent of trainees processed by Publications Division as the result of an accelerated recruiting and training effort, which has led to the EOD of 19 editors during the past year, including a large proportion of CT's.

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PERSONNEL

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31. New EmployeesAssignment

Teletype Operator, West Coast Bureau 50X1

Editor, Publications Division

Typist, Publications Division

Typist, Publications Division

Editor, Publications Division

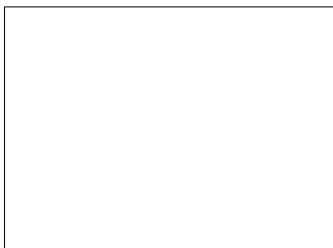
Typist, Publications Division

- 10 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968.



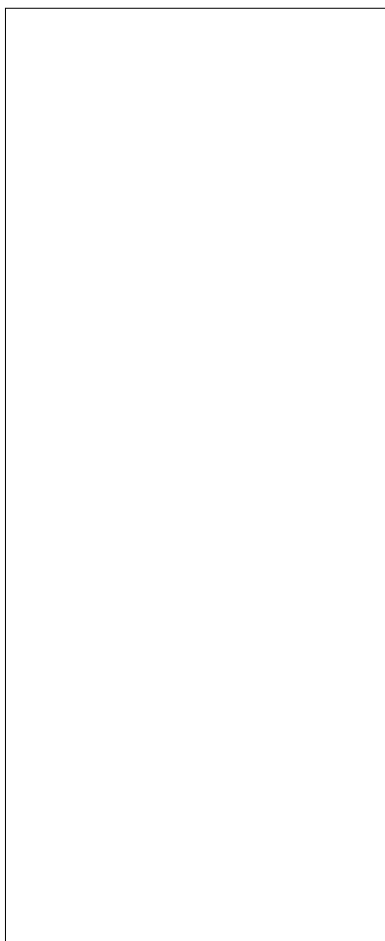
Typist, Publications Division

50X1

Intelligence Analyst, Propaganda
Analysis Division

Administrative Officer, London Bureau

32. Reassignment



From

To

Editor
Publications Division

Editor
Wire Services Staff

50X1

Electronic Technician
Caribbean Bureau

Watch Officer
Mediterranean Bureau

Chief
Publications Div.

Chief
Okinawa Bureau

Editor
Mediterranean Bur.

Editor
London Bureau

Teletype Supervisor
Tokyo Bureau

Teletype Shift
Supervisor
Wire Services Staff

Chief
Key West Bureau

Operations Officer
Okinawa Bureau

Watch Officer
Caribbean Bureau

A. Assistant Engineer
Caribbean Bureau

Intelligence Analyst
Propaganda Analysis
Division

Editor
Publications Division

Assistant Chief
Engineer
Caribbean Bureau

Chief Engineer
Okinawa Bureau

- 11 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 September 1968

Reassignment

From

Senior Editor
Publications Div.

Watch Officer
Okinawa Bureau

Editor
Publications Div.

Deputy Chief
Operations Group

To

Senior Editor
African Bureau

B.I. Specialist
Monitoring Operations
Section

Editor
London Bureau

Chief
Publications Division

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50X1

32. Resignations

From

Typist, Publications Division (From LWOP)

Typist, Publications Division

Typist, Publications Division

Editor, Publications Division

33. Retirements

From

Linguist, Eur/Africa/Latin America Div.

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34. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated:

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ROGER G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Attachment

- 12 -

S E C R E T